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DENY

R 492

DG ①

April 3, 1981

① Press guide
② F-15

NSC DECISION ON SAUDI AWAC'S

Q. ~~Is it true that~~ the Administration has decided to notify Congress of four items of equipment for Saudi Arabia including AWACs and tankers in addition to F-15 missiles and fuel tankers?

A: --On March 6 we announced that we were prepared to notify Congress shortly of our intention to sell military equipment to Saudi Arabia. We mentioned that we proposed to sell fuel tanks, AIM-9L missiles, and that we had agreed to sell aerial surveillance aircraft subject to a determination of Saudi requirements. Finally, we agreed to be responsive in providing a refuelling capability.

--During the past month we have had extensive consultations with the Saudis on these subjects and are in general agreement with them on their needs. Certain details remain to be worked out and we are not ready to make a formal announcement.

Q. Did the NSC make a decision Wednesday to go forward to Congress simultaneously on the F-15 enhancement and AWACs on the recommendation of Secretary Weinberger, and over the opposition of Secretary Haig?

A: --I am not going to discuss NSC deliberations.

NEA/P:GSherman;NEA/AKP:HPrecht Clearances:S:The Secretary
T:JBuckley
PM:Mr.Kanter
NEA:NVelictes
JTwinam